

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: November 16, 2007

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on November 9, 2007

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Removal Completion, Plating Engineering Site, West Allis, Wisconsin

On October 30, 2007, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Craig Thomas of Emergency Response Branch 2, Section 2, completed a time-critical removal action at the Plating Engineering Site in West Allis, Wisconsin. The site was a former plating facility. This removal action included disposition of approximately 65,000 gallons of hazardous liquids, 560 tons of chrome and lead contaminated soil and hazardous solids.

Significant soil and groundwater contamination still remains beneath the footprint of the building in soil and groundwater. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) plans to conduct sampling to further define this contamination.

Contact: Craig Thomas (312-886-5907)

Response (Air Sampling), Clara City Train Derailment, Clara City, Minnesota

On October 29, 2007, at around 3:30 a.m., a railroad tanker car carrying hydrochloric acid struck a parked train and derailed in

Clara City, Minnesota. The derailment caused a four foot gash in the side of a tanker car, causing hydrochloric acid (HCL) to release to the ground. As a precaution, a nursing home with approximately 65 residents and one-third of the town (300 to 400 people) were evacuated from the area to prevent exposure to any HCL vapors resulting from the tank car release. At the request of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Sonia Vega responded with the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractors and conducted air monitoring for HCL in and around the site, including nearby residential neighborhoods. At about 3:30 p.m., the evacuation order was lifted and all evacuees returned home. U.S. EPA and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway's consultant, CTEH, continued air monitoring until all spilled material was properly neutralized.

Contact: Sonia Vega (651-296-7361)

Removal Start, Jacobsville Neighborhood Soil Contamination Superfund Site, Evansville, Indiana

On October 3, 2007, U.S. EPA Region 5 started a time-critical removal action at the Jacobsville Soil Contamination site located in Evansville, Indiana. The neighborhood had been a former site of at least four facilities that used lead in their manufacturing processes; these facilities operated as early as 1897 to around the 1950s. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and U.S. EPA placed this site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in July 2004. Several sampling efforts resulted in 36 homes being identified with lead levels above 1200 parts per million (ppm). Additional sampling by the Removal Program identified 30 to 35 more properties above the 1200 ppm level. These properties will be included in this removal action. Properties with lead levels between 400 and 1200 ppm will be addressed using the remedial process. The removal action will involve the excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils and is expected to be completed in late winter of 2008.

Contacts: Kevin Turner (618-997-0115)
Lori Muller (312-886-4233)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Contribution to Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Publication: Aboveground Petroleum Tanks: A Pictorial Guide

Barb Carr, Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Coordinator (Oil Planning and Response Section) had the opportunity to be a contributing author to the recently published (November 2007) Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Publication, "Aboveground Petroleum Tanks: A Pictorial Guide." Farm operators, commercial pesticide application businesses, and American commerce are dependent on gasoline, diesel fuel, biofuels, and lube and engine oils. This publication addresses the potential problems and consequences of aboveground petroleum product storage, describes field-tested management procedures and security measures to use when storing, dispensing, and disposing of petroleum products, and raises awareness of Federal and State petroleum regulations which might impact these facilities.

Contact: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Davis Creek Business Park, Kalamazoo, Michigan

On October 24, 2007, U.S. EPA attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Davis Creek Business Park in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Davis Creek Business Park sits on the site of a former U.S. EPA multi-million dollar cleanup which has been further remediated by State, local, and private interests and is now an environmentally friendly sustainable development business park. U.S. EPA was invited to speak at the ceremony to discuss past U.S. EPA involvement at the site and our role in these types of initiatives. Also speaking at the ceremony were U.S. Congressman Fred Upton (via recorded message), Jim Sygo (Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality), the Mayor of Kalamazoo, and others. The event was well received with close to 100 participants, spectators, and media personnel present.

Contact: Jim Mayka (312-353-9229)

Official Dedication, Sylvan Slough Natural Area, Rock Island, Illinois

On October 25, 2007, the Brownfields and National Priorities List (NPL) Re-Use Section participated in the official dedication of

the Sylvan Slough Natural Area at 4400 Third Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois. Seven years ago, dilapidated buildings, litter, and junk cars were the only things to be found in this area. To restore the area, old industrial buildings were torn down and contaminated soils were bioremediated onsite. The material was used to build gardens and paths. Mayor Mark Schwiebert spoke about reusing industrial materials as a way to preserve the industrial heritage of the Quad Cities and redevelop their riverfront. Also, highlighted at the event were the partnerships that had helped to bring this project about, including the City of Rock Island, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), U.S. EPA via a 2003 Brownfields Cleanup Grant, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Illinois DNR), Representative Patrick Verschoore of the 72nd District of the Illinois General Assembly, River Action, Riverboat Development Authority, and the Conservation Design Forum.

Contact: Joseph Dufficy (312-886-1960)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Letter of Appreciation, Reilly Plating Site, Melvindale, Michigan

On November 6, 2007, U.S. EPA received a letter from Michigan State Senator Raymond Basham (8th District). The letter expressed thanks to On-Scene Coordinators Brian Schlieger and James Justice, and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR's) Mark Johnson for participating in a public meeting regarding a recent incident at the Reilly Plating Site, Melvindale, Michigan. In his letter, Senator Basham offered the following: "Your attendance at this meeting along with your valuable input shows your continued commitment to the importance of being responsive to the needs and concerns of the citizens that we serve."

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cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)
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